

Apprication No. 09/292,627
Amendment Dated: September 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 13, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] The small switches 302-332 are physically connected to other small switches by connections between E_Ports. Each small switch 302-332 is directly connected to every other small switch in the same row through two E_Ports by two ISLs, and is also directly connected to every other small switch in the same column through two E_Ports by two ISLs. Thus, each small switch 302-332 has two ISLs with every other small switch in the same row and two ISLs with every other switch in the same column. To take advantage of having two ISLs linking one small switch with another small switch within the same row and column, the two ISLs can be grouped to function as a trunked group. A trunked group of ISLs functions as a single logical ISL. One suitable method for trunking pairs of ISLs is disclosed in commonly-assigned, U.S. Patent Application No. ~~09/872,412~~~~XXX,XXX,XXX~~, Attorney Docket No. 5988, by David C. Banks, Kreg A. Martin, Shunjia Yu, Jieming Zhu, and Kevan K. Kwong, entitled, "Link Trunking And Measuring Link Latency In Fibre Channell Fabric," filed June 1,2001, which is fully incorporated by reference herein. When the pairs of ISLs connecting small switches are trunked, the pairs of ports in small switches connected to the trunked ISLs also function as a single logical port. Thus, the term "port" as used in this application includes a single port, or multiple trunked ports that function as a single port.